

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 SP-02 PM-03 L-01

INR-05 CIAE-00 SAJ-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 /042 W

----- 107794

R 061340Z DEC 74

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9220

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

USCINCEUR

USLOSACLANT

CINCLANT

USDOCOSOUTH

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USNATO 6820

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL NATO

SUBJ: NAT MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP

REF: A. USNATO 4339; B. USNATO 4382; C. USNATO 6017;
D. STATE 243484

SUMMARY: ASYG HUMPHREYS CALLED INFORMAL MEETING DEC 4 TO DISCUSS A REVISED DRAFT PO ON MC-232. THIS REVISED DRAFT PO, PREPARED BY THE NETHERLANDS, WOULD CHANGE THE TITLE OF THE GROUP BUT WOULD KEEP IT IN THE NATO CONTEXT. DURING THE MEETING, UK REP EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO WITHHOLD ACTION FOR THE TIME BEING. THE DANISH REP AGREED AND ALSO OFFERED CHANGES TO THE DRAFT PO WHICH WOULD REMOVE THE GROUP FROM NATO AUSPICES. FRG REP ALSO PROPOSED MINOR WORDING CHANGES. CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS ON REVISED DRAFT PO (TRANSMITTED BELOW) AND ON PROPOSED CHANGES. END SUMMARY.

1. AS REPORTED REFS A AND B, THE MILITARY COMMITTEE APPROVED

MC-232 ON JULY 23, 1974, AND FORWARDED IT TO THE SYG WITH THE REQUEST THAT THE DPC TAKE NOTE. MC-232 WOULD ESTABLISH MACHINERY FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION CONCERNING NATIONAL NAVAL OPERATIONS OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA. ASYG HUMPHREYS HAS SOUGHT TO GAIN ALLIED POLITICAL AGREEMENT TO THE CONCEPT PRIOR TO FORMAL DPC CONSIDERATION. TO THIS END, HUMPHREYS HAS HELD SEVERAL INFORMAL MEETINGS OF NATIONAL REPS IN ORDER TO DEVELOP AN AGREED SYG PO WHICH WOULD IMPLEMENT THE PROVISIONS OF MC-232 WITH ACCEPTABLE MODIFICATIONS OR LIMITATIONS.

2. THE NETHERLANDS AND DENMARK HAVE SHOWN RELUCTANCE FOR NATO TO BE INVOLVED, HOWEVER INDIRECTLY, IN ANY ACTIVITY OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA. HOWEVER, THE NETHERLANDS' DEFENSE ADVISOR (CARSTEN) HAS DEVELOPED THE FOLLOWING REVISED DRAFT PO WHICH IS ACCEPTABLE TO HIS AUTHORITIES.
BEGIN TEXT.

29TH NOVEMBER, 1974

CONCEPT FOR THE MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP
"PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES WILL HAVE RECEIVED COPIES OF THE ABOVE DOCUMENT FORWARDED TO ME BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE ON 23RD JULY, 1974. THEY WILL RECALL THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH A GROUP WAS FIRST PUT FORWARD BY SACLANT IN SEPTEMBER, 1971 IN THE CONTEXT OF "MARITIME FLEXIBILITY" AS ONE OF THE AD 70 MEASURES TO COUNTER THE EXPANSION OF SOVIET MARITIME POWER OUTSIDE THE NATO AREAS. THESE MEASURES WERE ENDORSED BY MINISTERS(1) AND RECOMMENDED FOR IMPLEMENTATION BY COUNTRIES CONCERNED(2).

(1) DPC/R(71)31, 17TH JANUARY, 1972

(2) DPC/D(71)27, 29TH NOVEMBER, 1971

2. THE PURPOSE OF THIS GROUP IS TO ENABLE THOSE(NATO) NATIONS WHO WISH TO DO SO TO EXCHANGE INFORMATION CONCERNING THEIR RESPECTIVE NAVAL ACTIVITIES IN NON-NATO AREAS. THE GROUP WILL BE LOCATED AT CINCHAN'S HEADQUARTERS. I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE MODEST REQUIREMENTS OF THE GROUP WILL BE MET WITHIN CINCHAN'S EXISTING RESOURCES, WITHOUT ADDITIONAL FUNDS OR MANPOWER.
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3. WHEN TAKING THE DECISION TO IMPLEMENT ANOTHER OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS ON MARITIME FLEXIBILITY - THE GRANTING OF AUTHORITY TO SACLANT FOR CONTINGENCY PLANNING OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA - PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES TOOK CARE TO EMPHASISE THAT THIS INVOLVED NO CHANGES IN NATO POLICY OR IN THE DEFINITION OF THE NATO AREA; NOR DID IT IMPLY THE ACCEPTANCE OF ANY ADDITIONAL MARITIME COMMITMENTS. IT SHOULD BE CLEAR, I THINK, THAT THE SAME APPLIES TO THE CONCEPT FOR THE MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP. THERE IS NO SUGGESTION THAT AUTHORITY IS BEING SOUGHT FOR OPERATIONS, EXERCISES OR CONTACTS WITH NON-NATO NATIONS UNDER NATO AUSPICES OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA, NOR IS IT IN ANYWAY THE INTENTION TO ESTABLISH A PERMANENT PRESENCE OF NATO OR SOME NAMPC-COUNTRIES

IN NON-NATO MARITIME AREAS. MOREOVER PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP REMAINS ENTIRELY WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF INDIVIDUAL NATIONS AND ANY COORDINATED ACTIVITY UNDERTAKEN BY THEM WILL BE THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT THAT OF NATO. THE GROUP WILL ONLY BE CONCERNED WITH NORMAL PEACETIME ACTIVITIES, SUCH AS PORT VISITS AND TRAINING EXERCISES. THE ROLE OF NATO IS IN FACT LIMITED TO PROVIDING FACILITIES FOR THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ITSELF. IT SHOULD ALSO BE NOTED THAT THERE IS NO CONNECTION WITH THE CONTINGENCY PLANNING MENTIONED ABOVE, WHICH DEALS WITH INTERNAL PLANNING WITHIN SACLANC FOR THE PROTECTION OF SHIPPING IN CASE OF WAR OR ACUTE THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST NATO.

4. I WOULD LIKE TO SUGGEST THAT NO PUBLICITY SHOULD BE GIVEN TO THE FORMATION OF THIS GROUP. HOWEVER, NATO AND PARTICIPATING NATIONS MIGHT CONSIDER ISSUING BRIEF AND FACTUAL PRESS ANNOUNCEMENTS REGARDING THE FORMATION OF THE GROUP IN ORDER TO AVOID MISUNDERSTANDINGS AND MISLEADING PRESS SPECULATION.

5. A POLICY FOR PUBLICITY CONCERNING SUBSEQUENT ACTIVITIES MIGHT BE FORMULATED BY THE GROUP AFTER ITS ESTABLISHMENT. SUCH A POLICY WOULD BE GOVERNED BY THE CONSIDERATIONS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE.

6. I THEREFORE INVITE THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE TO APPROVE:
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(A) THE SETTING UP OF THE MARITIME EXERCISE INFORMATION GROUP BASED ON THE CONCEPT FORWARDED BY THE MILITARY COMMITTEE UNDER REFERENCE MC 232 AND IN THE LIGHT OF THE CONSIDERATIONS DESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 3 ABOVE;

(B) THE GUIDANCE CONCERNING PUBLICITY TO BE GIVEN TO THE FORMATION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GROUP AS SET OUT IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 ABOVE.

(7. I PROPOSE TO PLACE THIS SUBJECT ON THE AGENDA OF A FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE DEFENCE PLANNING COMMITTEE PARTICULAR AS PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVES MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE QUESTION OF PUBLICITY FOR THE GROUP AND TO DISCUSS THE PROPOSALS SET IN PARAGRAPHS 4 AND 5 ABOVE.")
END TEXT.

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ACTION EUR-08

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INR-05 SAJ-01 CIAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 /042 W

----- 107876

R 061340Z DEC 74
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9221
SECDEF WASHDC
INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USNATO 6820

LIMDIS

3. AT DEC 4 INFORMAL MEETING, ASYG HUMPHREYS NOTED INORDINATE DELAY IN DPC ACTION ON MC-232. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT REPS COULD AGREE ON DRAFT PO SO THAT INATIONAL STAFF COULD FORWARD IT TO SYG AND PLACE ON DPC AGENDA IN LATE JANUARY OR EARLY FEBRUARY.

4. UK REP (MACDONALD) COULD NOT COMMENT ON SUBSTANCE OF LATEST DRAFT PO BUT DID NOT LONDON'S PREFERENCE FOR DELAY IN BRINGING SUBJECT TO DPC ATTENTION. UK FEELS THAT SIMONSTOWN AND DEFENSE REVIEW ISSUES ARE NOW TOO FRESH IN PARLIAMENT'S MIND AND THAT SOME DELAY WOULD BE BENEFICIAL.

5. DANISH REP (ROSENTHAL) AGREED THAT DELAY WOULD BE DESIRABLE SO THAT HIS AUTHORITIES MIGHT OBTAIN POLITICAL BACKING FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF GROUP. IN ANY CASE, HE CONTINUED THE DRAFT PO WAS NOT ACCEPTABLE IN ITS PRESENT FORM. HE
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OFFERED THREE AMENDMENTS:

- A. REMOVE WORD "NATO" NOW IN BRACKETS IN PARA 2.
 - B. ADD TO END OF SECOND SENTENCE PARA 2 "AND CHAIRED BY ONE OF THE PARTICIPATING NATIONS."
 - C. AMEND LAST WORDS OF FOURTH SENTENCE PARA 3 TO READ "THEIR OWN RESPONSIBILITY AND NOT CARRIED OUT IN THE NAME OF, OR ON BEHALF OF, NATO."
- IN JUSTIFYING HIS POSITION, DANISH REP POINTED TO CONTROVERSY CREATED BY RECENT NAVAL EXERCISES IN INDIAN OCEAN WHERE LITTORAL STATES HAD CRITICIZED SOME NATO NATIONS FOR BEING INVOLVED. HE IMPLIED HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT STAND SUCH CRITICISM AND STATED THAT "WE MUST DEFEND NATO'S IMAGE IN OUR OWN COUNTRIES."

THEREFORE, HIS AUTHORITIES FEEL THEY MUST FURTHER WEAKEN
THE LINK BETWEEN THE MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP AND NATO.

6. FRG REP (ARENDT) NOTED THAT THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE WAS
WORKING UP A PAPER ON THE IMPLICATIONS OF A REOPENED SUEZ
CANAL. BONN FEELS THIS MAY FOCUS NATO ATTENTION ON NAVAL
PROBLEMS OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA AND PROVIDE IMPETUS TO EFFORTS
SUCH AS A MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP. FRG REP OFFERED THE
FOLLOWING WORDING CHANGE TO THE LAST SENTENCE OF PARA 3:
"....INTERNAL PLANNING WITHIN SACLANT HEADQUARTERS FOR THE
PROTECTION OF SHIPPING OUTSIDE THE NATO AREA IN CASE OF WAR
OR ACUTE THREAT OF AGGRESSION AGAINST NATO'S VITAL SEA
LINES OF COMMUNICATION."

7. US REP (MAUZ), DRAWING ON REFS C AND D, POINTED OUT THAT
A MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP WOULD PROVIDE A VALUABLE SERVICE
AND THAT THE US FULLY SUPPORTS THE CONCEPT. HOWEVER, THE
US BELIEVES THAT THE GROUP MUST REMAIN CLEARLY IN THE NATO
CONTEXT.

8. RECOGNIZING THAT REPS COULD NOT AGREE ON DRAFT PO AT
THIS MEETING, ASYG HUMPHREYS ASKED THAT REPS SEEK GUIDANCE
FROM CAPITALS CONCERNING NETHERLANDS' TEXT (PARA 2, ABOVE)
AND AMENDMENTS OFFERED BY DENMARK AND FRG. HE NOTED THAT
CINCHAN (ADMIRAL LEWIN) PROBABLY WOULD RAISE THE ISSUE
WITH THE MILITARY COMMITTEE IN CHIEFS OF STAFF SESSION ON
DEC 9.

COMMENT: FINAL PO, AS APPROVED BY DPC, WOULD IMPLEMENT MC-232
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AND ESTABLISH A MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP AT CINCHAN HQ.
MISSION'S PURPOSE IN NEGOTIATIONS OVER DRAFT PO IS TO CAUSE
MINIMUM CHANGE TO BASIC DOCUMENT. ACCORDINGLY, WE BELIEVE
THAT NETHERLANDS' TEXT IS ACCEPTABLE AND THAT FRG MODIFICATIONS
ARE IN ORDER. IN ADDITION, MISSION HAS NO OBJECTION TO
FIRST AND THIRD DANISH MODIFICATIONS (PARA 5A AND 5C ABOVE)
AS THEY WOULD NOT CHANGE SUBSTANCE OF MC-232. HOWEVER, WE
RECOMMEND AGAINST ACCEPTING SECOND DANISH MODIFICATION (PARA
5B ABOVE) AS THIS WOULD REMOVE GROUP FROM CINCHAN AUSPICES.
ACTION REQUESTED: WASHINGTON COMMENTS. BRUCE

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 11 JUN 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 DEC 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: kelleyw0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ATO06820
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741275/abbryyyyn.tel
Line Count: 260
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: A. USNATO 4339; B. USNATO 4382; C. USNATO 6017; D. STATE 243484
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 APR 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <25-Sep-2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NAT MARITIME COORDINATION GROUP
TAGS: MPOL NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
USLOSACLANT
CINCLANT
USDOCOSOUTH
BONN

COPENHAGEN
THE HAGUE
LONDON
Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005